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THE CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY OF PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF THE ANNE MCCOUCH CENTER

The **Cancer Support Community (formerly The Wellness Community)** at **The Anne McCouch Center** in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, which has provided complementary care for people with cancer since 1999, is closing on February 28, 2011, it was announced today by **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia (CSCP)** executive director Kimerly Hinkelman. "It is a sad day today," she says. "We have tried to maintain the programs there, but have been unable to sustain them financially." The **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia** plans to continue, however, to hold a support group for people with cancer and a bereavement group for those who have lost a loved one with cancer at the **McCouch Center** location at Trinity Lutheran Church through the end of June 2011.

The **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia**, while still named **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia**, had merged with The Wellness Place (for the Cancer Community) on July 1, 2006. The Wellness Place was founded by Anne McCouch, who died on May 25, 2010. It is located at 1000 W. Main Street in Lansdale, Pennsylvania in Luther Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. **The Anne McCouch Center** offers the same programs as the **CSCP** location, including a newcomers' orientation, support groups for people with cancer and caregivers, a family and friends group, T'ai Chi, yoga, and mind-body meditation, nutrition programs, specialty programs, etc.

Hinkelman's biggest concern is for the people with cancer and their loved ones in the Lansdale area. Recent changes within the **Cancer Support Community** should help: "There is a silver lining here. Since we merged with **Gilda's Clubs Worldwide** a while back, we have been working nationally and locally on joining our programs together, to unify them. Gilda's Club Delaware Valley is located in Warminster, and **The Anne McCouch Center** in Lansdale, just about 16 miles away. We know that our members have attended programs at both locations, and their satellite sites as well. It is our hope that as a result of the merger that our members will be able to receive support at Gilda's Club's multiple locations in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. There is still a very strong need for these types of programs and services in that area," says Hinkelman.

"We wish to thank Trinity Lutheran Church at this time for allowing us the use of their beautiful mansion these past years. In addition we thank those in the community for their support whether through donations, in-kind gifts, volunteering, helping with fundraisers and most importantly, participating in our programs" says Hinkelman. The **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia** continues to offer programs at Mercy Hospital, at Einstein Hospital, Temple Cancer Center, and at The Cancer Center of Paoli Hospital in addition to its main location in Fairmount Park.

Hinkelman adds: "This is not something we would have preferred to do, but when you offer programs at no charge to members, money to sustain them is needed. We run a very lean ship these days, and want to keep up the level of fine programs we have carried on for the last 18 years. We hope our friends in greater Philadelphia can continue to help us; we need their support as never before."

The **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia (CSCP)** is dedicated to providing, at no cost to members, a comprehensive and professional program of emotional support and education designed to enhance the mind, body and spirit of people whose lives have been impacted by cancer. **CSCP** offers programs at Ridgeland in Fairmount Park and other Philadelphia-area locations. Please call the **Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia** at (215) 879-7733 or toll free at (888) 819-3553. Visit **CSCP's** website at cancersupport-phila.org for more information, "like" **CSCP** on Facebook, and follow **CSCP** on Twitter.

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